

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 ACDE-00 /026 W
-----029533 211713Z /46

P R 211612Z JUN 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8453
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T GENEVA 5024

EXDIS USSALTTWO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PARM
SUBJECT: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 21, 1977
(SALT TWO-1237)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER
SEMENOV AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF JUNE 21, 1977.

SEMENOV STATEMENT, JUNE 21, 1977

IN CONNECTION WITH DISCUSSION OF THE QUESTIONS INVOLVED
IN REACHING AGREEMENT ON THE PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE II, PAR. 1,
THE USSR DELEGATION HAS THE FOLLOWING TO TSTATE.

IN THE U.S. DELEGATION'S STATEMENT AT THE JUNE 14, 1977
MEETING A JUDGEMENT WAS EXPRESSED WHICH IS IN FACT AIMED AT
INCLUDING IN THE 2,400 AGGREGATE LIMITATION SOVIET LAND-BASED
LAUNCHERS OF THE MISSILE CALLED SS-20 IN THE U.S.

IT IS WELL KNOW, HOWEVER, THAT THE LAUNCHERS REFERRED
TO HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED AND TESTED ESPECIALLY FOR INTERMEDIATE
RANGE MISSILES AND DUE TO THEIR TECHNICAL CAPABILITIES CANNOT
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BE USED FOR LAUNCHING ICBMS.

THUS, THESE SOVIET INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILE LAUNCHERS
ARE NOT AND CANNOT BE THE SUBJECT OF NEGOTIATIONS IN CONNECTION
WITH THE NEW AGREEMENT.

CONSEQUENTLY--AND THIS ALSO ENSUES FROM THE SUBSTANCE

OF THE DEFINITION OF LAND-BASED ICBM LAUNCHERS IN ARTICLE II, PAR. 1--THEY CANNOT BE SUBJECT TO LIMITATIONS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE ESTABLISHED 2,400 OVERALL LIMIT.

THERE ARE NO GROUNDS WHATSOEVER FOR RAISING THE QUESTION OF LIMITING SOVIET LAUNCHERS OF SS-20 INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILES IN THE AGREEMENT BEING WORKED OUT. IN ESSENCE, THIS WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO AN ATTEMPT TO OVERTURN THE CONTENT OF THE VLADIVOSTOK UNDERSTANDING, RECORDED IN THE AIDE MEMOIRE OF DECEMBER 10, 1974. AFTER ALL, I--THAT UNDERSTANDING--AS YOUOPK PROVIDES FOR LIMITING WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE 2,400 AGGREGATE LEVEL LAND-BASED LAUNCHERS OF PRECISELY INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILES, AND BY NO MEANS LAND-BASED LAUNCHERS OF BALLISTIC MISSILES WHICH ARE NOT ICBMS. ACCORDINGLY, ATTEMPTS OF THAT KIND CANNOT BE REGARDED AS ANYTHING OTHER THAN AN EXPRESSION OF A DESIRE TO DEPART FROM THE UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S., REACHED IN VLADIVOSTOK. CLEARLY, THIS CANNOT CONTRIBUTE TO CONTINUING THE NECESSARY SEARCH FOR MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SOLUTIONS FOR THE NEW AGREEMENT.

I MUST SAY THAT AN EFFORT, UNDER WHATEVER PRETEXT, TO LIMIT SOVIET LAND-BASED LAUNCHERS OF INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES IN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT IS DIRECTLY CONTRARY TO THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUALITY AND EQUAL SECURITY, AGREED BETWEEN THE SIDES. ATTEMPTS, ON ONE PRETEXT
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OR ANOTHER, TO ESTABLISH LIMITATIONS ON THESE ARMS ARE AIMED, ON THE ONE HAND, AT HARMING THE SECURITY INTERESTS OF THE SOVIET UNION AND, ON THE OTHER HAND, AT OBTAINING UNILATERAL ADVANTAGE FOR THE U.S.

THE SOVIET UNION HAS CATEGORICALLY REJECTED AND CONTINUES TO REJECT ANY ATTEMPT TO INCLUDE SOVIET LAND-BASED LAUNCHERS OF INTERMEDIATE RANGE BALLISTIC MISSILES AMONG THE QUESTIONS BEING CONSIDERED AT THE SOVIET-U.S. NEGOTIATIONS ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT THIS TOPIC CANNOT IN ANY WAY BE RELEVANT TO THE NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S. ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE ABOVE, THE SOVIET UNION RESOLUTELY REJECTS THE INTENTION EXPRESSED IN THE U.S. DELEGATION'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 14, 1977, AIMED AT INCLUDING THE AFOREMENTIONED SOVIET LAND-BASED LAUNCHERS OF INTERMEDIATE RANGE MISSILES WITHIN THE 2,400 MAXIMUM AGGREGATE LEVEL. THIS IS A TOTALLY UNACCEPTABLE CONSIDERATION. ENDEARLE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), MEETINGS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GENEVA05024
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770221-0572
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770636/aaaabfpt.tel
Line Count: 114
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1f566479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2085930
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF JUNE 21, 1977 (SALT TWO-1237) THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MIN
TAGS: PARM, (SEMENOV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1f566479-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009